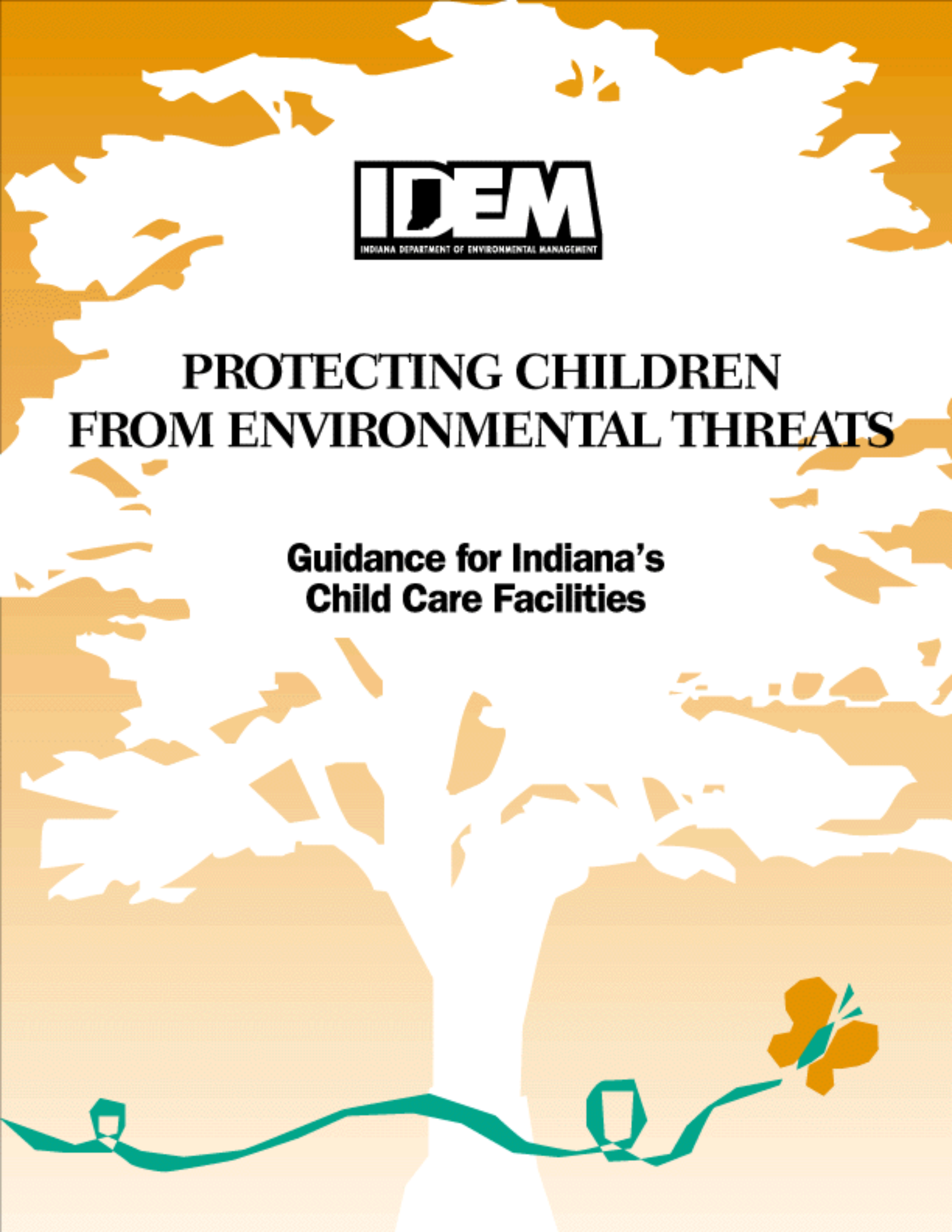




PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS

**Guidance for Indiana's
Child Care Facilities**





IDEM Commissioner
Lori F. Kaplan

Dear Child Care Provider:

The health of our children is a concern we all share. The air we breathe, the water we drink, the land where we build our homes, affect children's health perhaps more than we are aware.

Children in particular are susceptible to threats in the environment because their central nervous system and organs have not created the protective barriers that most adults develop. For instance, since children do not have fully developed blood brain barriers, mercury passes easily to the central nervous system. Lead in paint and drinking water can show up in children as learning disabilities, hyperactivity, or convulsions.

Must we live and work in constant fear? Absolutely not. Should we be concerned and act judiciously? Yes. Mostly, we need to be educated. As child care providers, you have a unique opportunity to educate yourselves, staff, and families on the many steps we all can take to protect children from threats in the environment. Many of these measures are simple--like running the cold water tap for 30 seconds every six hours to make sure any lead deposits are flushed out, or running the vacuum cleaner when children are not present.

This guide is a companion piece to the *Self Assessment for Child Care Facilities and 5-Star Environmental Recognition Program*. To enhance these tools, this comprehensive manual will educate you on potential environmental health risks that may be present in your facility and specific steps to address them. In addition to environmental protection, we've included sections on safety, sanitation, and educational tools for children and parents.

Ensuring a healthy future for our children is a responsibility we all share. Educating yourself and your families on environmental problems will create cleaner, healthier communities throughout Indiana. Thank you for caring about the health and well-being of Indiana's children.

Sincerely,

Lori F. Kaplan
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Environmental Management

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
BTU	British Thermal Unit
CFL	Compact Fluorescent Lamp
CPR	Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EREN	Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Network
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FSSA	Family and Social Services Administration
HBV	Hepatitis B Virus
HCV	Hepatitis C Virus
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HVAC	Heating Ventilating Air Conditioning
IDEM	Indiana Department of Environmental Management
IOSHA	Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISDH	Indiana State Department of Health
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
NSF	National Sanitation Foundation
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Federal)
OSFM	Office of the State Fire Marshal
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyl
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter
UL	Underwriters Laboratory
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WWW	World Wide Web

